

for allowing us to do this unfettered and unhassled because I know the Senator wants to finish and move on to other things. We have accomplished a couple of different things in the first day. We have had an opportunity to say our piece on our side to express our concern with some of the provisions. We have also had an opportunity to have a vote. It does not take a genius to count that vote.

After the vote occurred, the proponents of this legislation, in a very reasonable fashion, suggested we get together and see if some of the concerns we expressed could not be addressed. That is what good debate and good interchange is all about: actually listening to each other and learning something from each other and trying to see whether or not we could address some issues.

Those thoughts have been expressed in a way that had not been heard before. All of this happened, and that is a good thing. We are going to wind up with a better product than we otherwise would have. So, yes, I concur with the Senator. It is time to do what we can do and then move on.

I add we still need to be diligent and make sure we agree on the language, as we have orally, and hopefully wrap this thing up tomorrow.

Mr. SARBANES. Mr. President, we are going to strive very hard to get this unanimous consent agreement before we go to the joint meeting of the Congress, and then I hope we can come back and in fairly short order execute the unanimous consent request and move to final passage of this legislation by midday tomorrow, and then clear the Chamber for the leadership to take up other matters which I know are pressing on their agenda.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. REID. I ask unanimous consent there now be a period of morning business with Senators allowed to speak for a period not to exceed 5 minutes each.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

CELEBRATING AUSTRALIAN-AMERICAN FRIENDSHIP

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, next week the Senate will be honored with a visit from the Right Honorable John Howard, Prime Minister of Australia. Prime Minister Howard comes to the United States to celebrate the 50th Anniversary of the signing ANZUS Treaty, the document that has formally tied our strategic destinies together for

the good of the entire Asian Pacific Rim.

Our relationship with Australia did not begin with the ratification of one treaty. American and Australian soldiers have fought together on every battlefield of the world from the Meuse Argonne in 1918 to the Mekong Delta and Desert Storm. We share a common historic and cultural heritage. We are immigrant peoples forged from the British Empire. We conquered our continents and became a beacon of hope for people struggling to be free.

For over 100 years, the United States and Australia have been the foundation for stability in the South Pacific. Today, we are on the precipice of a new day in this vital region. The potential for economic growth there is staggering. Where our two countries provided the military basis for peace in that hemisphere, we now can set the stage for a new free market order that will open the frontiers of freedom for countless millions.

On September 5th, I sent a letter to President Bush asking that he accelerate the schedule for creating a free trade agreement with Australia. We are Australia's largest source of foreign investment and second largest trading partner with a two way trade totaling over \$19 billion. Even though Australia has a relatively small population, they are the 15th largest market for American exports.

An American Australia Free Trade Agreement will be a capstone event on a century of friendship and mutual sacrifice. It has the potential for setting a new standard for all of the Pacific to follow. So we welcome Prime Minister Howard to the United States and look forward to another century of prosperity and peace.

I ask unanimous consent that a copy of my letter to President Bush dated September 5, 2001 be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the letter was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

U.S. SENATE,
OFFICE OF THE REPUBLICAN LEADER,
Washington, DC, September 5, 2001.

The PRESIDENT,
The White House,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. PRESIDENT: In recognition of the upcoming visit of Prime Minister John Howard, to celebrate the 50th anniversary of our alliance with Australia, I believe that it is a wonderful opportunity to strengthen the historic ties between our countries by launching the United States-Australia Free Trade Agreement.

In addition to a military alliance that has borne fruit on battlefields from the Meuse Argonne to Vietnam, we share a common cultural and economic bond. The United States-Australia strategic partnership is the foundation for stability in the South Pacific. We are Australia's largest source of foreign investment and second largest trading partner and they are one of the top markets for American exports.

The United States-Australia Free Trade Agreement would be the first in a series of formal regimes designed to bring the fruits of the free market to the entire Asian Pa-

cific rim. There is no better place to expand the new economic frontier than with our friends and allies in Australia.

Sincerely,

TRENT LOTT,
Republican Leader.

STEM CELL RESEARCH

Mr. WARNER. Mr. President, I rise today to discuss embryonic stem cell research, having just participated in a hearing on stem cell research before the Senate's Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions Committee.

The future of stem cells in the United States, indeed the world, poses one of the greatest challenges to our Government since the foundation of our Republic over 200 years ago.

Enormous pressures will be placed upon our Presidents. President Bush, at the threshold of this debate on new developments in medical research, has taken an important step forward. I commend the President for supporting some degree of Federal funding for embryonic stem cell research. I also particularly commend the President for his efforts to ban human cloning.

Likewise, Congress must write laws striking a balance. On the one hand, ethical, moral, and religious standards give our Nation its strong foundation and must be considered.

On the other hand, we must allow science to go forward, within reasonable bounds, to assess the ability of the new frontier of embryonic stem cell research to alleviate the human suffering being experienced by millions.

Like our executive and legislative branches of Government, our judiciary will also be faced with challenges. The judiciary must interpret, not re-write, the law of the land, as a flood of cases will come before the courts.

If the three branches of our Government fail, in the judgment of Americans, to discharge their respective responsibilities in a fair, objective way, there will be many adverse impacts upon the American people.

For example, this science will simply leave the U.S. laboratories and move off shore. The United States will no longer be a Nation that imports and keeps our best researchers; rather, we will become a Nation that exports our brain power in crucial fields. Americans seeking medical treatment will likewise go abroad.

Consequently, our Government is faced with challenges. But, to the extent we allow embryonic stem cell research at home, within a fair and balanced framework of regulations, we can better control the important ethical, moral and religious standards vital to our culture here in the United States.

America has accepted the awesome responsibility of being the only world superpower in areas of security, the preservation of freedom, and the fostering of the principles of democracy and human rights throughout the world. Are we as a Nation going to be